


Emergency Preparedness and
Response - Schedule of Events

} No EP & R Exercises have been
scheduled to date.

January 2011—EP & R Exercises

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

2011 Brings More Emphasis on Training for MRC Volunteers

By Teresa Blakeslee—Peninsula MRC Coordinator

Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical Response System has been providing some of the funding for the Eastern Region MRC Units for several years. Recently a change in the structure of the disbursement of funds has caused MRC unit leaders to look at enhancing their training programs for their units to ensure a more confident and competent cadre of volunteers.

Medical Reserve Corps Members come from a variety of backgrounds and enter the program with varying training, credentials, capabilities and professional experience. However, additional specific MRC training is necessary and empowers volunteers to fill important roles that help the Health Department and it's MRC organization achieve it's objectives. This training includes a variety of topics based on the needs of the local communities the local health department serves. In order for an MRC to fulfill its mission in the community, members of the MRC need to be competent to carry out their responsibilities and training should be geared towards a common set of knowledge, skills and abilities called Core Competencies.

Core Competencies represent the baseline level of knowledge and skills that all MRC volunteers should have, regardless of their roles within the MRC unit. Competencies define a core or standard set of activities that each MRC member would be able to perform and provide a framework for the programs training component and assist in describing what communities can expect from their MRC's. This uniformity allows for better interoperability between MRC's making collaboration amongst MRC units and their external partners more efficient.

In 2011, the Eastern Region MRC Unit Leaders will be working together to re-define baseline, core-competencies training, develop training programs, and provide training offerings on the local and regional level through Power Training Days.

Additionally, your Peninsula MRC will continue to develop niche training around very specific community needs. Most immediately will be the Riverside Emergency Response Team training. This training, once completed will afford trained and ready volunteers the opportunity to work alongside of the Riverside Emergency Department personnel during a major event that overwhelms their current resources. Training will allow volunteers to assist in providing patient advocacy (no one shall be forgotten), Psychological First Aid, and minor wound care.